(b) if so, whether this 'biological method' has been used anywhere and whether positive results have been achieved; and

(c) if so, what are the areas, and States where Government is going to start the new method for increasing fresh forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It reiterates plantation of salt tolerant tree species in saline soil. Biological method including soils amendments is in progress in such soils of Uttar Pradesh with positive results More details of the new biological method are being ascertained

**Ban on industrial activities in Aravali range**

4392. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has requested Government to review its decision imposing a blanket ban on industrial activity in the Aravali range;

(b) whether such a step would have an impact on the overall growth and development of the districts nearby Aravali range; and

(c) if so, the further reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) While a notification had been issued on 7th May, 1992 for restricting certain activities in specified area of Aravali Range which are causing environmental degradation in the region, there has been no decision imposing a blanket ban on industrial activities as presumed by the PHD Chamber of Commerce while making a request for a review.

**Setting up of Indian Institute of Forest Management**

4393. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the objective in setting up the Indian Institute of Forest Management, the Environmental Protection and Coordination Organisation and the Disaster Management Institute;

(b) whether Government have made any review of the working of these organisations to know as to how far the objectives for which these were set up have been achieved;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government in case their performance has been found to be unsatisfactory and below expectations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The objectives of the Institutes are set out in Statement (*See* below)

(b) to (d) As far as IIFM, Bhopal is concerned, its working is reviewed by the Board of Governors and the Society of IIFM in their meetings. The institution has had some problems due to absence of a regular Director. However, that difficulty has been overcome and strengthening of the faculty, widening the coverage and content of forestry management programmes and further building up of the infrastructure are in hand.

Review of the functioning of the ENVIS centre at EPCO is being undertaken by the ministry from time to time since its inception and the performance has been found to be satisfactory.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India do not have direct control over the working of the Disaster Management Institute, Bhopal.

**Statement**

The objectives for setting up of IIFM. EPCO and DMI, Bhopal.

1. *Indian Institute of Project Management*:

The main objectives of the institute are to offer advanced. Tht main objeticves, of the institute are to offer advanced training in Forestry Management to in service forest officers, officers of forest Development Corporations and Forest related industries with a view to equip them to practice the art and profession of management of forestry development, to select and prepare outstanding and talented young persons for careers leading to management responsibility in forestry and the forest related systems. The institute offers a post graduate Forestry Management Diploma Course.

2. *Environment Protection and Co-ordination Organisation.*

The Organisation is an autonomous body assisted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Government of India have set up an ENVIS Centre under its Environment Information System Scheme in the Environmental Protection and Co-ordination Organisation in 1984 with the objective of collection, collation, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information to the user group in the field of Environmental management relating to the state of Madhya Pradesh.

3. *Disaster Management Institute, Madhya Pradesh.*

The Institute is under the administrative control of the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

The main objectives of the institute are to provide training in Disaster Management and related fields for officials of Government Deptts., Public & Private sector, to run post-gratuate diploma and degree courses in Disaster Management and Industrial Safety, to carry out research studies in disaster management, to collect, store and disseminate information on matters related to hazards and disasters, to offer consultancy services to industries and others and award scholarships, fellowships, prizes and medals for better disaster management.

**Preservation of one-horned rhinos in Assam**

4394. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received One-horned Rhios' in Assam;

(b) whether the proopsal has been approved by Government; and

(c) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) A centrally sponsored Scheme titled "Conservation of Rhinos in Assam" has been continuing since 1986-87. The scheme has been transferred to the State Plan Sector from the year 1992-93 along with the budget provision of Rs. 75 lakhs.

Under the Scheme, central assistance was provided for strengthening the infrastructure for protection and conservation of Rhinos along with its habitats. The financial assistance released under the Scheme during the Seventh Five Year Plan, 1990-91 and 1991-92 was to the tune of Rs. 3.07 crores, Rs. 0.97 crores and Rs 1.69 crores respectively.

**Proposals of Andhra Pradesh pending for calearance**

4395. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the details of the proposals from Andhra Pradesh which are pending for clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): The following fifteen projects are pending for environmental or forest clearance from Andhra Pradesh;